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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Letter dated 4 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you an appeal to the United Nations by the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, adopted by House decree of 12 April 2001.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, under agenda item 20.

(*Signed*) Sergei **Ling**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Appeal to the United Nations by the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus

On behalf of the Belarusian people, the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus expresses deep gratitude to all those who have provided and are continuing to provide assistance to Belarus in eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. For many people, it has become a tragedy and is continuing to cause pain and suffering.

Fifteen years after the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station, its adverse consequences are not ending. In the territories contaminated by radionuclides, a deterioration is being observed in the health of the population, and an indisputable link has been established between the effects of radiation and the unprecedented increase in malignant neoplasms of the thyroid gland among children.

The costs of overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl accident are greatly exceeding the capacities of the Republic. Every year over 10 per cent of the State budget is allocated for this purpose.

The parliamentarians of the Republic of Belarus appeal to State parliaments and Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, business, financial, scientific and religious circles, social movements and funds, representatives of the mass media, their compatriots and all peoples of goodwill not to forget that the people of Belarus have been living in an environmental disaster area for many decades and need active assistance from the world community.

The peoples of the entire world need to join together in order to overcome the adverse consequences of this massive man-made disaster for all mankind. It is only by joining together that it is possible to combat both man-made and natural disasters on a global scale.

12 April 2001